

Brigham Young House
Hancock County
Nauvoo, Illinois

HABS Ill. No. 250

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill. 1.

ADDITIONAL
FOOTNOTES

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

BRIGHAM YOUNG HOUSE
Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois

Owner - Charles and Emma Kraft

Date of Erection - Circa 1840

Builder - Brigham Young

Present Condition - Fair

Materials of Construction - Native stone foundation walls; hand-made brick for walls and chimneys and basement floor; wood shingles; stone sills and lintels in original part; wood sills and lintels in later addition.

Additional Data - Brigham Young, born in Vermont, 1801, joined the Mormon Church in 1832 and was appointed an Apostle in 1835. He was a carpenter and builder and was active in the erection of the Mormon Temple in Kirtland, Ohio in 1832-1836.

Records are not available to show his connection with the building of the Temple at Nauvoo, nor even his connection with the building of the house bearing his name. His ability as a leader was apparent early, however, as his elevation to high office in the Mormon Church shows. He was in England preaching at the time of the death of the Smith Brothers, Joseph and Hiram, and hurried home to assume leadership of the Church and Colony within two months. He was head of the Church when the removal from Illinois to Utah was undertaken (1846) and on his shoulders fell the full task of organizing the Westward march of the Colony. Brigham Young was for two terms Governor of the Territory of Utah, and established schools and industries which continue to this day. The great irrigation development in that state was started by him upon arrival at Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847.

The house was originally of symmetrical design, a two story portion flanked on each side by a one story wing. The east wing, while called a parlor, by the present owner, was perhaps an office for it has direct outside entrance as well as connection to the main house. The office-parlor has a cove ceiling which gives it some prominence and is evidence that it was a meeting place of some consequence.

The other wing with its 8' 0" high ceiling and low attic above, was perhaps a kitchen, although what is now termed Living Room probably was the Kitchen, for its huge fireplace and bake oven indicate kitchen activities were carried on here. This latter room in the past had access from outside as well as inside. The oven is gone, but the lines of its arches are evident as are the foundation walls.

The front porch is a later addition, rumor saying the uprights were obtained from a wrecked Mississippi River boat. The change when the west wing was enlarged is evident on all floors, the basement showing an unexcavated portion. On the exterior the new windows have wood sills and lintels, whereas the original part has natural stone in these places.

The old attic floor, which is now the bed room floor, shows stairwell boarded over.

Sources - Encyclopedia Britannica and Encyclopedia Americana and New International Encyclopedia; present owner and personal observations at the project site.

By

S. J. Jansson

Approved

Emerson

Addendum to
Brigham Young House
Granger and Kimball Sts.
Nauvoo
Hancock County
Illinois

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127